

Graphic by Spc. Marques Hunt
Photos by Kurt Wolfe and Amy Goldberg

Wranglers rule the day at Claxton’s rodeo

Kurt Wolfe
Staff writer

Soldiers, their families and an estimated crowd of 10,000 attended the 40th annual Rattlesnake Roundup Saturday in Claxton, Ga. The event, sponsored by the Evans County Wildlife Club, began with a parade down Highway 280.

At 10 a.m. sharp, numerous charities, organizations, businesses and beauty queens began the mile-long parade through the heart of Claxton. Col. Thomas James, 4th Brigade commander, his wife and three children were honored guests and rode near the front of the Rattlesnake Roundup Parade.

From there, spectators traveled about a mile to the Evans County Wildlife Club Banquet Hall in Hagan, Ga. for a reception lunch. A festival followed, featuring a variety of hand-crafted arts and crafts with over 200 exhibitors.

Almost everyone, however, came to see the actual Rattlesnake Roundup.

In an enclosed arena, several hundred rattlesnakes, some a foot long and others as much as eight feet long were released in bundles and then one by one manually put into smaller containment pens.

Steve Scruggs, a rattlesnake “wrangler,” put on an exhibition demonstrating how rattlesnakes coil and strike at speeds nearing 200 miles per hour.

By opening the snake’s jaws and manipulating their fangs through a membrane covered jar, rattlesnakes are “milked” for their venom, a process required to create badly needed anti-venom.

Children and adults gazed in amazement as Scruggs handled the snakes with great respect, yet with no apparent fear. Willing spectators who were brave enough were allowed to handle non-venomous snakes such as the beautifully colored corn snake.

While similar rattlesnake roundups are held across the nation, Claxton holds the distinction of being the grand-daddy of them all, an event that each year continues to draw visitors from across the southeast.



Kurt Wolfe

Snakes were one of many features at the Claxton’s Rattlesnake Roundup, March 10. People also enjoyed food, music and a parade.

The Mighty Eighth celebrates its eleventh birthday



Kurt Wolfe
Staff writer

On Jan. 28, 1942, less than two months after the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the 8th Air Force was officially activated in the National Guard Armory on Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia. Once deployed to England, Americans flew the highly dangerous daylight missions over Europe, while the British bombed at night.

Every crew went into every mission unsure if they would return. Born from those battles in the sky were heroes of incomparable stature. It was only fitting and proper then, that a museum be constructed to pay homage in some small way to those who sacrificed so heavily over the skies of war scarred Europe.

It began as a dream by one man. Major General Lewis E. Lyle, USAF Retired, was a B-17 veteran who flew 70 combat missions during a war where most crews were lucky to survive 11.

In 1983, Lyle articulated a dream to build a museum honoring the men and women who helped defeat Nazi aggression in the skies.

It would be a long and difficult task to pay tribute to the 350,000 members of the 8th Air Force – especially the 26,000 who were killed in action and the 28,000 who became prisoners of war.

It all came true, however, on May 14, 1996, when the doors of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum were first opened to the public. This May, the museum is celebrating its 11th anniversary.

Dr. Walt Brown serves as the president and chief executive officer of the museum, and cites with pride the museum’s incredible growth over the last decade.

“Initially, museum planners traveled throughout the United States and Europe, visiting museums and talking with the staff from various institutions,” says Brown. The very best elements found among these facilities were then combined to create 90,000 square foot museum complex.

It would have been impossible but for the dedication and perseverance of local governments.

“In 1994, Pooler and Chatham County floated bond efforts,” says Brown “From that we obtained 13 acres

and began construction. Nearly 85 percent of the voters in Chatham voted in 2004 to pay off bond debt in its entirety. Today the museum is debt free and able to focus on its goals of honoring veterans and educating future generations.”

A garden and reflecting pool rest behind the museum and several hundred plaques honoring various flight crews are posted throughout the grounds. Also recently built, and open to the public, is an exact replica of an old English chapel.

It is identical to the many chapels our Soldiers would have visited in the English countryside as they prepared for battle.

Today the Eighth Air Force Museum hosts several hundred thousand visitors a year, including 15,000 local school age children, and another 1.7 million school children from across the nation through outreach programs. Most impressive, however, are the actual World War II veterans who volunteer to speak to visitors and tell their first hand accounts.

The Veteran’s Administration estimates 1,135 World War II veterans die every day and it is of paramount interest to the museum to memorialize, on tape if possible, as many first hand accounts as possible.

The museum has grown beyond most expectations over the last 11 years, and it continues to grow each year.

“We are planning on telling the SAC (Strategic Air Command) story here soon,” says Brown. “We also want to give light to the airmen and women who served in Korea, Vietnam, and Kosovo, as well as those who fought the war in the Pacific. Someday we will be paying tribute, I am sure, to our Soldiers who continue to fight in the Global War on Terrorism.”

To accomplish that dream, seven more acres have been acquired. The museum hopes to soon gain a completely restored B-17 bomber, as well as a World War II flight hanger used by the 8th Army Air Corps in World War II, and currently sitting at Hunter Army Airfield.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is located outside of Savannah, off of Highway 95 at exit 102. It is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours, and is closed on New Years Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Pets of the Week



Cuddles the cat and Wilkins the dog are some of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes, and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.



MWR Briefs

Feel the burn

Basic Endurance Aerobic Training, a new, high-intensity aerobics class based on the Army physical fitness program, is being offered from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. weekdays at Jordan Fitness Center.

Enjoy open recreation at Youth Center

Saturdays are open recreation at the Stewart Youth Center. First through fifth grades: noon to 2 p.m.; sixth to 12th grades: 2-8 p.m. The Child and Youth Services membership fee of \$15 is required. Call 767-4491.

Get in the Army Speed Pool tourney at Rock's

Rocky's kicked off an eight week tourney March 7, which will run at 8 p.m. every Friday. Weekly winners advance to the finals on April 27.

The registration fee is \$25, which includes a limited edition custom Fort Stewart pool cue & carrying case; however only 200 are available.

Cool prizes for weekly winners like mini MP3 Players, memory sticks and tourney T-shirts.

The installation tournament winner takes away an all inclusive three-night trip for two to Las Vegas! Register at 767-8715 or 368-2212.

Venture on a 3-day trip to Coker Creek

MWR offers a three day, two night trip March 23-25 to Coker Creek Adventure Center, near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The bus leaves Fort Stewart at 5 p.m. March 23. Accomadations include bunkhouse style rooms, five meals, your choice of horseback riding or mountain biking in the morning, then whitewater rafting on the Oconee River in the afternoon. On March 25, there will be time for sightseeing or hiking before returning home. The cost is \$230 per individual. Payment is due March 1. For more information, call 767-2841.

Check out the custom car show

Check out the wheels at the custom car show at Newnan Field 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 767-6212.

Easter egg hunt slated for youth

Hop on over for a day of fun with the Easter Bunny March 31 at the Youth Sports Complex (behind School Age Services, 10 am - 2 pm. The fun is open to children one to 11 years old. There will be children activities such as inflatables, a professional photographer and more. Bring a picnic and make a day of it. Family Readiness Groups may reserve a picnic spot. For more information, call 767-4491.



AAFES PRESENTS

MARCH 15 TO 21



Epic Movie

March 15 — 7 p.m.

(Kal Penn, Adam Campbell)

In the spirit of "Scary Movie" and "Date Movie," a parody that spoofs recent mega-blockbusters. The comedy centers itself around four orphans who visit a chocolate factory and are transported to the wonderful land of Gnarnia, after stumbling upon an enchanted wardrobe.

There they battle pirates, encounter earnest wizards and attempt to defeat Gnarnia's dastardly White Bitch.

Rated PG-13 (crude/sexual humor, language, comic violence) 86 min

Because I Said So

March 16-18, 20 — 6 p.m.

(Diane Keaton, Mandy Moore)

Daphne Wilder is a mother whose love knows no bounds or boundaries.

As a single parent, she has raised three fantastic girls--klutzy, adorable Milly, stable psychologist Maggie and

sexy and irreverent Mae--to become the kind of women any mom would die to have. The only problem is they're about to strangle her.

In order to prevent her youngest, Milly, from making the same romantic mistakes she did, Daphne decides to set her up with the perfect man. The one thing Daphne decides not to tell Milly, however, is that she placed an ad in the online personals to find him

Rated PG-13 (sexual content, mature thematic material, nudity) 101 min

The Messengers

March 16-17 — 8:30 p.m.

(Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott)

A family moves into a run-down sunflower farm. As the farm begins to revive after years of disrepair, the family begins to notice uncomfortable and alarming changes in their father's behavior. *Rated PG-13 (mature thematic material, disturbing violence and terror) 87 min*



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule, but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel, or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069.

HEALTH W•A•C•H

Winn Army Community Hospital

What can Army Public Health Nursing do for you?

Nursing goal - give primary, secondary services, programs promoting health

Maj. Dean Bancroft
Chief, Optometry Services

Army Public Health Nursing operates within the Department of Preventive Medicine at Winn Army Community Hospital to implement and evaluate health and wellness programs based on identified health needs of the military community. Public Health Nursing is a synthesis of nursing practice and community health principles applied to promoting, protecting, restoring and maintaining the health of service members, their families and other groups affiliated with the military community. The overall goal is to provide primary and secondary preventive services and programs that promote health, quality of life and military readiness.

Services Public health nursing provides health education and counseling in the office, at the work-site, in the community and in individual homes. The population includes more than 18,800 military service members, more than 33,000 military retirees and eligible military family members, more than 33,000 eligible DoD civilians and other organizations within the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield health service areas. Public Health Nursing programs and activities occur based upon available staffing. Specific program activities include: tuberculosis screening and surveillance program including monitoring of patients on

chemoprophylaxis; contact interviews and epidemiological investigations; health guidance to the installation's child and youth services and preschools programs; providing professional consultation about immunization requirements; health screening activities and consultation about prevention and control measures for chronic diseases of significance to military populations; patient discharge planning; home visits to high-risk families for disease prevention and health promotion including newborn; handicapped, and chronic illness visits; participation in family advocacy case management with emphasis on prevention and health promotion and participation in management of the wellness and fitness programs.

Staff Qualifications

Army and civilian public health nurses hold a bachelor's degree in nursing and are registered to practice nursing governed by the respective state guidelines, nursing standards and practice protocols. Army and civilian licensed practical nurses receive specific community health nursing competency-based training.

The medical command may approve privileges for public health nurses to provide primary and preventive treatment of patients with latent tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases or tobacco addiction under the clinical supervision of the preventive medicine physician. Office hours appointment are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday except for Federal holidays. Selected program activities may be held in the evening and on weekends. Services may be requested by calling the receptionist at 435-5071.

Winn Briefs

National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month. In observance Capt. Michael Trust, Chief Nutrition Care Division, at Winn Army Community Hospital will present discussions on "How he safely lost 30 pounds in 90 days." The presentations are scheduled for noon - 12:45 p.m., Friday and March 23 in the Patriot Auditorium. Any Soldier or civilian and their family members may attend. Feel free to drop in - no appointment is necessary.

Patient, Family-Centered Care

Interested in becoming a patient advisor? Help us help you by joining the Patient and Family Centered Care Advisory Council meeting at Winn Army Community Hospital or Tuttle Army Health Clinic. Winn's meeting is 11 a.m. April 2 at Club Stewart. Call Linda King at 435-6225 or e-mail Linda.king2@se.amedd.army.mil. Tuttle's meeting is noon April 11 at the Hunter Club. Call Brandon Yarber at 315-5731 or Brandon.yarber@se.amedd.army.mil. Patient and Family Centered Care standards include involving patients and families in all aspects of the planning and delivery of healthcare services.

I'm pregnant. Now what?

Congratulations on your pregnancy. Prenatal care is available at both Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart and Tuttle Army Health Clinic at Hunter Army Airfield. Pregnancy tests are available. Active duty Soldiers need a documented pregnancy from the laboratory. Civilian spouses may confirm pregnancy with a home test or by a hospital urine test.

Please call 435-6633 to schedule a new OB nurse interview and an OB physical appointment at Winn or Tuttle. You can also make appointments in person. The Women's Health Center "One Heart... One Purpose... One Team."

Book appointments online

Want an alternative to calling the appointment line? TRICARE online could be your answer. You can book your appointments online at the TRICARE online Web site, www.tricare-online.com. This link is also available through the Winn Web site homepage, www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

We need you, our customer, to take our Winn Survey. Please stop by the patient representative's office on the first floor of the hospital, suite CH32, to take our 5 minute computer survey

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JENNIFER LIVINGSTON



Michelle Plyler of Livermore Falls, Maine, is a Red Cross volunteer working at Internal Review at Winn Army Community Hospital. Plyler volunteers because she wants to help and meet people.

Her interests and hobbies include watching movies, reading and bicycling.

If you'd like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 435-6903.

about your visit at Winn on the day of your visit.

Fix DEERS, get healthcare

Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by Building 253 on Fort Stewart.

Ready to quit class

This class is for those interested in quitting tobacco use. This class is a prerequisite to tobacco-use cessation classes.

The classes are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. For more information or to make an appointment, at Winn or Tuttle call 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provided by Winn Army Community Hospital

February 12

• **Ethan Charles Norris**, a boy, 5 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Spc. Joshua Norris and Pfc. Andrea Clayton.

February 26

• **Kendrick Ayden Hight**, a boy, 5 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Pvt. Aaron and Rebekah Hight.

• **Tristan Shawn Pack**, a boy, 6 pounds, 11 ounces, born to Sgt. Shawn and Melanie Pack.

• **Jordan Anthony Scoon**, a boy, 9 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Sgt. Keith and Krissy Scoon.

March 1

• **Salem Eryn Brown**, a girl, 9 pounds, born to Spc. Clayton and Beth Brown.

• **Denise Rosario Childers**, a girl, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Pfc. Antwon and Maria Childers..

March 2

• **Alena Rose Lee**, a girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Joshua and Amande Lee.

• **Michael Angel Sanchez, Jr.**, a boy, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Spc. Michael and Christina Sanchez.

March 3

• **Natalie Jane Basham**, a girl, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Spc. Bryce and Kelly Basham.

• **Lucy B. Etheredge**, a girl, 8 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Will and Capt. Carolyn Etheredge.

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• **Robert Joseph Ferraro, Jr.**, a boy, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Sgt. Robert and Christine Ferraro.

March 4

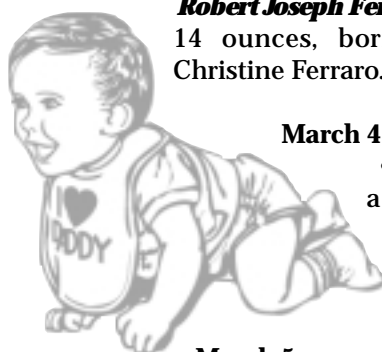
• **Brady Raymond Satele**, a boy, 8 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Motuofe Satele and Sgt. Lina Satele.

March 5

• **Micah Ryder Dye**, a boy, 8 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Spc. Ryan and Christine Dye

• **Kevin Lee Gremillion Jr.**, a boy, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Pfc. Kevin and Ivie Gremillion.

• **Lyric Jade McIver**, a girl, 7 pound, 8 ounces, born to Sgt. Mario and Valerie McIver.



God blesses us when we are faithful to others



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chap. (Capt.) Pratima Dharm
3rd Sustainment Bde.

I recently read the book of **'Ruth'** in the Holy Bible. It is one of my favorite books in scripture.

I learn the art of standing by people we love even if it means staking everything in our lives in order to achieve our goal, from this book. Ruth is not even Jewish by birth but still is so devoted to her Jewish mother-in-law despite her husband's death that she decides to stay and take care of her in her old age.

Ruth leaves her parents and her homeland to go live in the land of her in-laws. Ultimately Ruth is rewarded for her faithfulness to her mother-in-law when Boaz, a prosperous Jew, marries her.

She conceives and gives birth to Obed through God's blessing. Ruth who was a foreigner in the land of the Jews goes on to become the ancestor of King David and finally of Jesus Christ, all because she chose to be faithful and loving to her mother-in-law.

I believe that God is watching our actions in our lives, especially those we take towards others. He is also quick to reward us with his blessings when we are faithful and loving

towards others.

There are many occasions when we are faced with decisions similar to those faced by Ruth in scripture.

These decisions may lead us to stand by someone we love despite the fact that we may be alone and faced with the most trying circumstances in our lives.

For instance we may have to stand by our spouse when he or she is deployed. We may have to stand by our child who is exceptional and emotionally difficult or even our parents who may need our extra support in their old age.

We may have to stand by friends or even strangers who need us to be there for them emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Though its hard to stand by others at times, I certainly believe that God's blessings will grace our lives when we choose to do what is right in God's eyes: which is to be faithful and loving to others.

I encourage Soldiers and families to stand by each other, look out for their neighbors, extended families, friends and strangers. Not only will God bless your lives as he blessed Ruth's, but he will also bless others through you.

For what is a life worth if it is not geared towards helping others in

need.

Thinking only of our own interests makes us selfish and takes us away from God and his blessings. **Proverbs 8: 33-36** prompts us in the right direction, *"Listen to my instructions and be wise....blessed is the man who listens to me.....and receives favor from the Lord.....all who hate me love death."*

PWOC offers studies on female needs

Fort Stewart's Protestant Women of the Chapel meets 9:30 a.m. to Noon every Wednesday at Marne Chapel. There are four studies offered this spring semester focused on the needs of the modern military wife and female military members. Childcare is provided by Child Youth Services caregivers. PWOC, which is sponsored by the Army Chief of Chaplains, says it is God empowered, Christ centered and Spirit led. It exists as an extension of the Chapel and encourages women to grow spiritually within the body of Christ through prayer, the study of God's Word, Worship and Service. For more information please contact Tammy Owens at owenshouse2@msn.com.

Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Heritage	9 a.m.
Saturday Mass	Heritage	5 p.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Victory	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
American Samoan	Vale	11 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church(K to 6th grade)	Across from Dia. Elem.	11 a.m.
PWOC (Tuesday)	Vale	9:30 a.m.

Islamic
Friday Jum'ahMarne1:30 p.m.
Contact Staff Sgt. Aiken at 877-4053.

Jewish
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 332-2084.
FridayMarne11:30 a.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic
Sunday MassChapel11 a.m.

Protestant
Sunday ServiceChapel9 a.m.

Religious Education Contacts

Stewart and Hunter, Director of RE, Mike Iliff, call 767-9789.
Stewart Catholic RE coordinator, Beth Novak, call 767-6825.
Hunter Catholic RE coordinator, Pamela Perez, call 315-5440.

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry Junior and Senior High Students!

Join us for free games and pizza
6:30 - 8 p.m. Sunday,
at Vale Chapel in Bryan Village.

For more information,
call 877-7207.



Kids Church

Exciting Bible Lessons

with music, puppets, videos, crafts, games

11 a.m. to Noon, Sunday

at School Age Services

(across from Diamond Elementary)

For all kids Grade K-6

Scheduled Bus Pick-up

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty and Anzio, Liberty and Rome

10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch

10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia, Rogers and Argyle

10:40 a.m. - Naktong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea

10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel

10:55 a.m. - Victory Chapel

Questions?

Contact Chaplain Ric Thompson at 767-6831

Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

Chess, anyone?

STATESBORO — Adults and children alike are invited to play chess in the Statesboro Mall 3 to 5 p.m. every Sunday. Chess in the Mall is hosted by the Ogeechee River Scholastic Chess Association (ORSCA) and school chess clubs throughout Bulloch County. Go to <http://chess85.tripod.com> or e-mail j-lutz@enia.net or call 912-764-9770.

Local chess players are also trying to stir interest in the game around Hinesville. If you're interested in playing, and possibly forming a club, call 876-4715.

Savannah Cultural Events

SAVANNAH – Activities sponsored by the Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs include these ongoing events:

Every first Friday of the month

Folk Music by Savannah Folk Music Society, 7:30 p.m. Free at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

The Arts at City Market Center, Upstairs, Jefferson and West St. Julian Streets, free 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call (912) 232-7731.

Every first Saturday of the month

Adult and youth basic ballroom dance classes, by Moon River Dancers: 1-3 p.m. at W. Broad Street YMCA, 1110 May St. Admission is \$3 per person. Call 912-925-7416 or visit www.savannahusabda.org.

Every third Wednesday of the month

Open Mic Poetry Night - Signup at 7:45 p.m., Gallery Espresso, 6 East Liberty St. Call 912-233-5348.

Saturdays and Sundays

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation tours 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Located at 207 E. Charlton St. on Lafayette Square. Born in Savannah in 1925, writer, Mary Flannery O'Connor, lived in a Charlton Street house until 1938. Today, it is maintained partly as a memorial to her and partly as a literary center for Savannah. Literary activities are held at various times now through May, free. Call 912-233-6014.

Every Sunday

Oldie Goldies Sunday at the American Legion Post 500, 1716 Montgomery St., 4-8 p.m. Call 912-925-7116.

The Reel Savannah Film Group presentations, 7 p.m., Sunday evenings at the Lucas Theatre. Tickets, which are \$6, are available an hour before showtime.

Visit Armstrong Arboretum

SAVANNAH — Armstrong Atlantic State University has an arboretum, which encompasses the 250 acre campus and displays more than 100 species of trees and 200 species of shrubs and other woody plants.

The Fern Collection, featuring 23 varieties of native and non-native ferns, is on the west side of Jenkins Hall.

The recently completed Ginger Collection focuses on seven groups of ginger plants and is at the south end of Hawes Hall.

For more information or to schedule an educational tour, call AASU's plant operations at 912-921-5472.

Ride train in Southwest Georgia

CORDELE — Take a ride into history aboard the SAM Shortline Excursion Train. Riding in vintage railcars, passengers travel past scenic country farms, stepping off to explore quaint towns and fascinating historic sites.

President Jimmy Carter's boyhood home, the Plains antique mall, an impressive telephone museum, and Habitat for Humanity's Global Village are just some of the attractions

along the route.

The main depot is in Cordele, but riders may board at any stop, including Georgia Veterans State Park, Leslie, Americus and Plains. Cost is adults, \$20 and \$10 for children roundtrip. For a schedule and ticket sales, visit www.SamShortline.com or call 1-800-864-7275.

Backpackers lodge offers class stay

AMICALOLA FALLS — Georgia's only back-country lodge, The Hike Inn, is found at the end of a scenic five-mile trail beginning at Amicalola Falls State Park. Hikers are rewarded with soft beds, hot showers and hearty family-style meals.

Staff members proudly boast that the temperature rose above 90 degrees only once last summer, making the eco-lodge a perfect getaway for June, July and August. Rates begin at \$65/adult and include meals. For details, visit www.hike-inn.com or call 1-800-864-7275. Guests are encouraged to call far in advance since weekends fill quickly.

Visit Georgia parks

Visitors to Georgia's 48 state parks can make online reservations for campsites, cottages, lodge rooms, picnic shelters and other facilities. To get to the parks' new reservation center, operated by Maryland-based Spherix, click "Make a Reservation" on www.gastateparks.org or call 1-800-864-7275 (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.)

Savannah sidelights

Through March 31 – Workshop: Women's Independence Network Photojournalism Workshops, presented by Morningstar Arts, Inc., routinely 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday; 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday; 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday at the Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn Street. Hands-on workshops for young women, ages 16 to 25, with professional female photographers who will introduce them to the basic skills needed for a career in photojournalism.

Participants will execute projects and develop an exhibition to be displayed during National Women's Month in March.

Experience and access to a camera are not required. Limited space available. Advanced registration required. Sponsored by the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs

For information, contact 912-927-9922 or visit www.morningstararts.com.

Battle of Manassas

REIDSVILLE/CLAXTON – The eighth annual re-enactment of the Battles at Manassas is planned for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at "Fort Wallace-Wood" near Manassas. Fort Wallace-Wood is located just off U.S. Highway 280 between Reidsville and Claxton. Watch for signs and flags near the entrance.

At 2 p.m. each day, re-enactment battles between Union and Confederate forces will get under way to determine who will control the fort, an earthen and wooden fortification constructed to 1862 specifications.

More than 300 authentically uniformed Confederate and Union re-enactors will participate in the battles. Also, 15 cannons firing black powder will be featured.

Confederate and Union campsites will be near the fort and open for visits by the public. All uniforms and camp gear will be authentic representations for the 1861-1865 period. In addition, all muskets, cannons, flags, and accessories will be accurate representations

for that period.

Food and a variety of period merchandise will be offered by vendors on both days. Admission will be \$5. Children under 11 will be admitted free.

The event will be hosted by the Tattnall Invincibles Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. For more information, call Tommy Wallace at 912-557-6649.**et a Savannah Tour of Homes**

SAVANNAH – The 72nd annual Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens will be hosted March 22-25. Presented by the Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church and the Historic Savannah Foundation, the tour offers a rare opportunity to appreciate the beautiful architecture, interiors and gardens of historic Savannah.

Proceeds support the community outreach efforts of the Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church and the preservation projects of the Historic Savannah Foundation.

Special events include lunches at Lady and Sons Restaurant and Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House, Afternoon Teas, Trolley Tours and evening events.

Informative seminar topics will include: Savannah Historic Preservation and Restoration, Antiques, Decorating, Southern Cooking, and the Ships of the Sea Museum.

In addition to the beautiful downtown Savannah homes, the tour has once again partnered with The Ardsley Park Garden Club to showcase homes and gardens from one of Savannah's most beautiful historic neighborhoods - Ardsley Park. This wonderful little hamlet, located approximately three miles from downtown Savannah, was the city's first automobile suburb, built in the 1900's.

Ardsley Park is rich in history and embraces

Savannah Music Fest tickets on sale

Special to the Frontline

Online ticket purchase links are provided at www.savannahmusicfestival.org.

Tickets can also be purchased through the Trustees Theater box office 216 E. Broughton Street, 525-5050, and range in price from \$15-\$85 for each performance, with some events free.

Friday • Music at Midday: Harry O'Donoghue, 12:30 p.m. First Baptist Church. **•Jazz Now and Forever Series:** Ladies Sing the Blues - Dianne Reeves and Susan Tedeschi, 6 p.m. 9 p.m. Lucas Theatre for the Arts.

Saturday • Memorial Health Feel Better Series: Flook - 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 135.

Sunday • Georgia On My Mind: Awake My Soul - The Story of the Sacred Harp, 3 p.m. at Jepson Center for the Arts, in Neises Auditorium • **Georgia On My Mind:** Echoes of Hoboken - Sacred Harp Singing, 5 p.m. - Trinity United Methodist Church.

Monday • Music at Midday: Randall Williams, 12:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church • **Great Performers Series:** Ivan

Moravec, 7 p.m. - Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Tuesday • Music at Midday: Edie Hockspeier, 12:30 p.m., Lutheran Church of the Ascension • **Great Performers Series:** The borodin quartet, 7 p.m. - Telfair Academy of Arts & Sciences.

March 21 • Music at Midday: Tina Zenker Williams with Karla Qualls, 12:30 p.m. - Christ Church • **Connect Americana Series:** Uncle Earl, 7:30 p.m. - Orleans Hall Sensations I • **Live Chamber Music Concert** led by Daniel Hope, 8 p.m. - Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences.

March 22 • Music at Midday: Savannah State University Choir, 12:30 p.m. - Second African Baptist Church • **Bach's St. Matthew Passion** directed by Martin Haselböck, 7 p.m. - Lucas Theatre for the Arts • **Georgia On My Mind:** Shawn Mullins/Randall Bramblett Band, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Orleans Hall • **Memorial Health Feel Better Series:** Anoushka Shankar, 9 p.m. - Trustees Theater.

March 23 • Music at Midday: Savannah Arts Academy Chorale, 12:30 p.m., St. John's Episcopal

Church • **Great Performers Series:** Philippe Entremont and Sebastian Knauer, 6 p.m. Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences • **The Gospel Truth:** Gospel Music Workshop with James Bignon, 6 p.m. St. John Baptist Church • **Memorial Feel Better Series:** Noche Flamenca with Soledad Barrio, 8 p.m. at Lucas Theatre for the Arts • **Groove Masters Series:** Funky Dance Party Porter-Batiste-Stoltz, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Orleans Hall • **Connect Americana Series:** Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives, 8:30 p.m. at Trustees Theater.

March 24 • The Gospel Truth: Gospel Music Workshop with James Bignon, 10 a.m. at St. John Baptist Church • **Sensations II Chamber Music Concert** led by Daniel Hope, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Jepson Center for the Arts in Neises Auditorium • **With Passion and Spirit Series:** Boston Camerata, 3 p.m. Christ Church • **Jazz Now & Forever Series:** Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, 7:30 p.m. at Johnny Mercer Theater • **Groove Masters Series:** Latin Dance Party Plena Libre, 8 p.m.; 10 p.m. Orleans Hall.

Arts, entertainment, Irish at the movies

Commentary

by **Sasha McBrayer**
Fort Stewart Museum

I would like to start this edition of my A&E column by thanking everyone who read last week and offered me kudos and encouragement. I am so thrilled to do something I enjoy and to get positive feedback. Thanks!

I can't possibly write anything about film without first mentioning the epic motion picture to debut last weekend, "300." What a thrill ride! For those in the dark about the Frank Miller production, this film is another graphic novel brought to the big screen using the same process used in Miller's "Sin City."

Basically, the actors are real, or most of them are, however they are filmed in front of a blue screen so that digital wizards can visit the scenes afterward and add in the breathtaking landscapes and, for this film, the splashes and sprays of blood for the battle sequences. And speaking of battle, "300" brings the most artful and innovative melee scenes since we first saw "Neo" dodging those infamous bullets in slow motion.

For those wondering, The Battle of Thermopylae, and the villain, Xerxes, were real items from the history books, it's just everything else that is made up.

You might remember Tom Cruise's character in the "Last Samurai" conversing with Ken Watanabe about some of the great-

est battles in history. He mentions Thermopylae and impresses the samurai.

Critics may be confused as to why such a simplistic, visual treat is scoring so high with American audiences, but I was impressed, too. I am a fan of those deep, meaningful cinematic pieces, but every now and then we all just need to cheer for a real tragic hero, and cheer we did! Just do me a favor and leave the kiddies at home for this one. You can expect nudity and lots of violence.

March has a way of bringing out the Irish in all of us, so I thought I'd illuminate some Irish films you might want to rent while you gather with green clad friends and celebrate responsibly.

If after seeing the "300" you're craving some more action, 1997 was a very good year for Irish thrillers.

In "The Boxer" the brilliant and underappreciated actor, Daniel Day Lewis (from "Gangs of New York" and "Last of the Mohicans") plays Danny Flynn, recently released from prison.

Endeavoring to start clean and forget the past, Danny tries to leave the IRA behind him and begin a gym to train young boxers in peace and rekindle his relationship with the woman he left



behind.

Another '97 release, "The Devil's Own" pits Brad Pitt against Harrison Ford when an IRA assassin (Pitt) moves in with a hard-working New York cop (Ford) whose family gets caught in the crossfire as Pitt's true identity is revealed and the trouble starts.

Of course the Irish also have the reputation of being gangsters. If you haven't seen "The Departed," run, don't walk, to your nearest video store.

For once, a film full of action and drama got its fair share on Oscar night. This thriller about undercover cops and the Irish mob is full of fantastic performances and has got a great, captivating storyline.

If you aren't satisfied when it's over, then go and pick up "Mystic River," too, another great, haunting story by world class director Clint Eastwood, featuring unforgettable performances by supernova Sean Penn ("All the King's Men"), and the always noteworthy Tim Robbins ("Shawshank Redemption").

After you've spent so many hours watching videos, get out of the house. Celebrate the Savannah Music Festival and St. Patty's by catching the Celtic woodwind band, Flook, for two shows the evening of St. Patrick's Day at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. downtown in Savannah at the American Legion on Bull Street.

Flook was voted "Best Group" in the BBC Folk Awards. It should be a good show.

Have a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day!